ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A display is made of an electronic form that contains operable fields corresponding to components that correspond to nodes in a tree arrangement of hierarchical data. Each node has a structure. The operable fields have a hierarchical arrangement in the display of the electronic form. The hierarchical arrangement of the operable fields in the electronic form visually mimics the nodes in the tree arrangement of hierarchical data and also mimics the structure of each node. A user can enter data into the operable fields of the electronic form and the data is received. Each node has an attribute that defines the availability of actions to the user when the user enters the data into the operable fields of the electronic form. The hierarchical data in a data file is altered to correspondingly reflect the data that has been entered by the user.